

Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

Topic	Red	Amber	Green	Revised
Queen, religion and government, 1558-69				
The situation on Elizabeth's accession - Elizabethan England in 1558: society and government. - The Virgin Queen: the problem of her legitimacy, gender, marriage. Her character and strengths. - Challenges at home and from abroad: the French threat, financial weaknesses				
The settlement of religion - Religious divisions in England in 1558. - Elizabeth's religious settlement (1559): its features and impact. - The Church of England: its role in society.				
Challenge to the religious settlement - The nature and extent of the Puritan challenge. - The nature and extent of the Catholic challenge, including the role of the nobility, Papacy and foreign powers				
The problem of Mary, Queen of Scots - Mary, Queen of Scots: her claim to the English throne, her arrival in England in 1568. - Relations between Elizabeth and Mary, 1568-69.				
Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad, 1569-88				
Plots and revolts at home - The reasons for, and significance of, the Revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569-70. - The features and significance of the Ridolfi, Throckmorton and Babington plots. Walsingham and the use of spies. - The reasons for, and significance of, Mary Queen of Scots' execution in 1587.				
Relations with Spain - Political and religious rivalry. - Commercial rivalry. The New World, privateering and the significance of the activities of Drake.				
Outbreak of war with Spain, 1585-88 - English direct involvement in the Netherlands, 1585-88. The role of Robert Dudley. - Drake and the raid on Cadiz: 'Singeing the King of Spain's beard'.				
The Armada - Spanish invasion plans. Reasons why Philip used the Spanish Armada. - The reasons for, and consequences of, the English victory.				
Elizabethan society in the Age of Exploration, 1558-88				
Education and leisure - Education in the home, schools and universities. - Sport, pastimes and the theatre.				
The problem of the poor - The reasons for the increase in poverty and vagabondage during these years. - The changing attitudes and policies towards the poor.				
Exploration and voyages of discovery - Factors prompting exploration, including the impact of new technology on ships and sailing and the drive to expand trade. - The reasons for, and significance of, Drake's circumnavigation of the globe.				
Raleigh and Virginia - The significance of Raleigh and the attempted colonisation of Virginia. - Reasons for the failure of Virginia.				